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MEDIA RELEASE

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JAMAICAN MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO PASSPORT FRAUD

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono reports that 48 year-old Chesel Perkins of Ardsley, New York, was sentenced today in U.S. District Court to one year of probation for committing passport fraud. He was immediately taken into custody by agents of Immigration and Customs Enforcement for deportation proceedings.

Chesel Perkins, who is a citizen of Jamaica, was indicted last year for attempting to obtain a United States passport by fraud. He falsely stated on his United States Passport Application that he was born in the United States, and he attached a counterfeit birth certificate to his Application that purported to show that he was born in the Virgin Islands. Chesel Perkins' passport application was received and reviewed by the National Passport Center located in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, where the fraud was discovered.

United States Attorney Tom Colantuono said, "This case is part of my office's continuing effort to aggressively prosecute passport fraud. Efforts to fraudulently obtain a United States passport, which immediately identifies the holder as a United States citizen and which is perhaps the most coveted travel document in the world, cannot and will not be tolerated."

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Diplomatic Security of the U.S. State Department and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Arnold Huftalen.